

**Human Rights Commission
Minutes 4/8/08**

Present: Monica Golec, Michael Munroe, Christine Andrews
Val Ginn Scott McBride
Ken Freidenberg - Director Newington Department of Human Services

Absent: Tim Manke, Ann Cameron, Phyllis DiCara, Jeffrey Cultrera

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

In the absence of Chairperson Jeffrey Cultrera, Vice Chairperson Monica Golec chaired the meeting.

The first order of business was the upcoming **Memorial Day parade**. The following topics were discussed:

Val Ginn stated that she received an email from the organizer of the parade. He will be mailing out the registration form for the parade on 4/8/08. He will then let the committee know where to line up on Walsh Ave on the day of the parade. Parade participants must be in place by 9:30 on parade day.

Val Ginn has been in contact with a representative from the diversity club at the high school. They are willing to participate in the parade and would like the committee to inform them of what countries need representation.

Jeffrey Cultrera and Val Ginn had an interview with a reporter from The Newington Life newspaper concerning the HRC's participation in the Memorial Day parade. The issue is due to hit the newstands in a few days.

It was reported that Jeffrey Cultrera has not received any phone calls yet from people who are interested in marching in the parade.

Information about the HRC's participation in the Memorial Day parade will also be posted on the Town's web site. Newington Public TV, the Town Crier, Rare Reminder are other places where information will appear in the future about the parade.

Using data that was obtained concerning the ethnic make up of Newington, the committee came up with a list of twenty countries that would be represented in the parade. One flag of each country will be ordered at the end of April by Val Ginn.

The committee came to the agreement that there would be a large USA flag leading the way for the participants who are carrying their countries flags. Christine Andrews volunteered to see about obtaining this USA flag.

It was decided by the committee that the design for the large Human Rights Commission banner would be the two line version.

The next order of business was discussion of the **Waterfall Festival**.

It was reported that Jeffrey Cultrera found a website that has some games for children that the HRC might want to have in the Waterfall Festival booth. The three games mentioned were:

- 1) Crafts of Many Cultures
- 2) I Never Forget a Face (a matching game).
- 3) Kids Around the World Flashcards.

Jeffrey will be forwarding this information to the other members of the HRC. Committee members were especially interested in the Kids Around the World Flashcards. Scott Mc Bride offered to see if he could find out the topics of the flashcards and see if they could be linked to Newington's ethnic population.

The committee discussed the possibility of having music in the HRC booth. It was decided that it would be practical for the HRC to obtain its own music source (Boom box, IPOD NANO etc.) that could also be used at other HRC

functions. Ken said that he would look into obtaining it through a town vendor where the HRC might receive a discount or a donation of the music source.

The need for a tent and tables for the Waterfall festival was discussed. It was agreed that the tent would be relatively inexpensive to purchase. Something to anchor down the tent will also be needed. Michael Munroe offered the use of his two five foot folding tables for the booth.

The status of the advertising board for the center of town was discussed. The HRC has the first week in September reserved. Val Ginn stated that she could see about Comp U Sign designing a permanent board with removable stickers for the dates. This way the board could be reused for future HRC events.

The last topic of the meeting was a possible **Food/Toiletries Drive** in the fall of 2008.

Scott McBride stated that he had been in contact with the Newington Chamber of Commerce. The NCC will see if any of their members would be interested in being sponsors of a food/toiletry drive. Scott said that he would continue to keep in contact with the NCC on this matter.

It was decided that a date for the food/toiletry drive would be decided on at the next meeting of the HRC.

Ken and Christine reported on their experience at the Community Conversations event that they attended. They both felt that the meeting was beneficial. The focus was on community safety. The Six Feet of Influence Program received a positive response from others in attendance.

The next HRC meeting was agreed to take place on **Tuesday May 6th at 7:00 pm.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Michael Munroe - Secretary